

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-72.(Canceled).

Claim 73 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim [[72]] 74, wherein the threshold-value unit is a component of a neural network.

Claim 74 (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 72, for monitoring a detection region of a working element, the method comprising the following steps:

monitoring continuously a detection region with at least one camera;
reading image information, in the form of color values, generated in the camera during the monitoring into an evaluation unit wherein the image generated by the camera is read into the evaluation unit in the form of a pixel matrix with different color values;
distinguishing endangered objects from non-endangered objects with the evaluation unit based on the color values;

disabling the working element with the evaluation unit, if at least one endangered object is detected within at least one protection zone in the detection region; and
enabling the working element with the evaluation unit if no endangered object is located in the protection zone,

wherein the distinguishing step includes assessing the color values with a threshold-value unit; and creating binary images based on the assessment with the threshold-value unit and wherein the assessing step comprises:

associating three color values of the base colors of red, green and blue with each pixel of the image read into the evaluation unit;

assigning the color values predetermined weight factors;

creating a linear combination from the color values using the weight factors; and

assessing the linear combination of color values with the threshold-value unit using a threshold value.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 74, further comprising, determining at least one of the threshold value and the weight factors through a learning process, in which colors of the endangered objects are established.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 74, wherein the endangered object are of a predetermined color, with the threshold value being adapted to the predetermined color.

Claim 77 (Currently Amended): A The method according to claim 72, further comprising: for monitoring a detection region of a working element, the method comprising the following steps:

monitoring continuously a detection region with at least one camera;

reading image information, in the form of color values, generated in the camera during the monitoring into an evaluation unit wherein the image generated by the camera is read into the evaluation unit in the form of a pixel matrix with different color values;

distinguishing endangered objects from non-endangered objects with the evaluation unit based on the color values;

disabling the working element with the evaluation unit, if at least one endangered object is detected within at least one protection zone in the detection region;

enabling the working element with the evaluation unit if no endangered object is located in the protection zone;

forming a connected region of foreground pixels in the binary images generated by the threshold-value unit to represent the endangered objects; and

eliminating individual foreground pixels in a background around the connected region using morphological operators, wherein the distinguishing step includes assessing the color values with a threshold-value unit; and creating binary images based on the assessment with the threshold-value unit.

Claims 78-89 (Canceled).